

## Past Honorees

- ★ Aaron Spelling
- ★ ABC
- ★ All My Children
- ★ Bobby and Peter Farrelly
- ★ Carrie Fisher
- ★ CBS
- ★ CSI: Crime Scene Investigation
- ★ Disney Channel
- ★ Emmanuel's Gift
- ★ Fern Field
- ★ Ford Motor Company
- ★ Fox Broadcasting Company
- ★ HBO
- ★ José Feliciano
- ★ Kirk Douglas
- ★ Last Comic Standing
- ★ Little People, Big World
- ★ Michael J. Fox
- ★ Melissa Gilbert
- ★ NBC
- ★ nip/tuck
- ★ Paramount Studios
- ★ Patty Duke
- ★ Ray Charles
- ★ Robert David Hall
- ★ 20th Century Fox
- ★ 20/20
- ★ The Family Stone
- ★ The Office

# THE MEDIA ACCESS AWARDS

## THE EVENT

For 25 years, entertainment industry professionals and disability advocates have teamed up to produce a unique project called the Media Access Awards. This gala Academy Awards-style event celebrates Hollywood and the contributions made toward enhancing the lives of people with disabilities. The Media Access Awards recognize those who use the unique power of their medium to increase public awareness and understanding. By accurately portraying the experience of disability and employing people with disabilities, the industry can enhance employment opportunities for all people with disabilities.

## THE PURPOSE

A recent study from the Screen Actors Guild shows that 20 percent of all Americans are living with some kind of disability, yet less than two-percent of TV show characters display a disability. Increasing the inclusion of disability in what we see and hear can increase employment opportunities and the appreciation of disability as an important part of cultural diversity. The California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities is committed to making the chance to become self-sufficient more of a reality for people with disabilities. By hosting the Media Access Awards, the Committee celebrates those in Hollywood who have showcased the true image of disability, and encourages others to do the same.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

This celebration and educational opportunity would not be possible without the generous support of our major sponsors throughout the years. Supporting the Media Access Awards not only puts disability awareness in the Hollywood spotlight, it also provides assistance for developing disability talent. Professionals with disabilities can find career development aide, and the industry can find script, casting and technical assistance all at the Media Access Office. It's an innovative resource made available by the Governor's Committee and the California Employment Development Department, in partnership with industry professionals and members of the disability community.